

PREDICTIONS OF THE Overthrow of Popery, And the Landing of the Prince of Orange IN THE W E S T :

Written by George Wither Esquire, in the year 1660. And some Proposals for
PERPETUAL PARLIAMENT
Written by the same Author in 1652.

TO Act the last Scene which proceeds their *Doom*,
They now new vampt upon the Stage are come ;
And, though that with the *King*, as if his Friends
They seem to side, they come for other ends,
Which he not yet discerning, in his Grace
Vouchsafes them a considerable Place,
And of prevailing they already boast,
As if they saw the LAMB and all his Host
Quite overthrown, which me as confident
Hath made that *God* their proud hopes will prevent,
And overthrow that *Tyranny* out-right,
By what they Dream shall raise it to its height.

But many *Tryals* must the *Saints* abide,
And very much their patience will be try'd
Here and elsewhere before that *All* is done,
Which with an Anti-mask is now begun.
Our *Friends* inhabiting beyond the *Waters*,
And who were of our Tragedy Spectators,
Now Twenty years (though they perceive it not,
Or seem not to perceive it) in that Lot

A Which

Which these have cast for us, designed are
 (Or in what follows next) to have a share,
 For Hamans PURS on foot ; not only here,
 But likewise almost every other where.
 And these think that to take them by his Gin,
 With most speed, is, with us first to begin.
 But there's a Counter-Mine, which will be sprung,
 To blowup them, and all their Mines e're long, &c.

— wherein they see
 The Beasts late deadly wound nigh cur'd to be,
 They on a sudden, are become as Jolly,
 As if they thought it to be cured wholly ;
 And, to impose their Mark, will now begin
 To be more strict than ever they have been ;
 So that e're long, few men shall live in peace,
 Bear Office, or a free Estate possess
 Where they have power, unless they marked are
In Hand, or *Forehead*, with their Character.
 But, if that, wherof some imperfect views
 Far off appear, accordingly ensues,
 There will to thwart their hopes, a new *Star blaze*
 Within the West, that shall the World amaze ;
 And *influences* through the *Universe*
 So quickly, and prodigiously disperse,
 That, aided by concurring *Constellations*,
 It shall have some effects upon most *Nations*,
 And cause such *changes*, as will make a stand
 In those *Attempts* which they have now in hand.
 Yet know, it will but a *diversion* be,
 Not that which must from *Bondage* set us free,

We, on this side the Water are not yet,
 Confus'd enough, that *order* to beget
 Which must establish us, and shall therefore
Pursue Self-interest a little more.
 With *new Wine* our *old Bottles* must be fill'd,
 (Endangering *Wine* and *Bottles* to be spill'd)
 Till such as are in *power* be pleased to hear
 The *Counsel* of a slighted *Engineer*.
 With *new Cloth* our *old Garments* patcht must be,
 (Whereby the *Rents* made wider ye shall see)

Till

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Till every old *Rag* be worn out, and then
The *Robe* so rent shall be renew'd again.
And they that own it, be secured more,
And much more dignified, than heretofore.
If they who must compleat it, make their choice
By *Lot divine*, as well as humane *voice*.
Whereto *Self-seekers* never will agree,
Until enforced by some *freights* they be.

Before the *Sons of Jacob* entrance found
Into their *Promis'd Land*, they had a round,
Or progres to fulfil, and many years
They in the *Desarts* were *Probationers*,
By several hardships, thereby to improve
The *Seeds of Faith*, new sown at their remove
From *Egypt*, and by *Signs* and *Wonders* shown
To make unto themselves their frailties known.
But they at each restraining of their Lust,
Brake forth into repinings and distrust ;
Yea, into flat *Rebellion*, into rearing
Of *Idols* (when his Law God was preparing)
Into a wicked causless Murmuring
Against the Means of their delivering
From *Egypt's Tryal*, and into Wishes vain,
That they might thither back return again.
For which of many hundred thousands none
Enjoy'd the *Promis'd Rest*, but two alone.

And we are just like them, yea, we have done,
Since God, to bring us from our *Thrall* begun,
The very same things in the *Wildernes*
Of our *Probation*; and our Carcasses
Shall there be left, unless we do betimes
Make an Attonement for our passed Crimes ;
And with unfeignedness that course purſue
Which leads unto the Rest, that is in view, &c.

There is a course whereby, without disgrace,
Or danger, you may bring that *work* to pafs,
And free your ſelves from that great cost and pain,
Which without thanks or profit you ſustain ;
Afflicting others too, by thoſe *Confusions*
Which are increaſt by your irrefolutions.

Until

Until a better therefore shall appear,
 Be pleased that Expedient to hear,
 And by those *preventions*, or that good
 It promiseth, you find a likelihood,
 Take heed, that no self-interest, divert
 That approbation, whereunto your heart
 Inclineth you; for God will find you out,
 And cross the *Counter-work* you go about.

In *England* and in *Wales*, there is a *Shire*,
 For ev'ry Week that's numbered in the year.
 By *Twelve*, according to the *Months* divide
 The *Counties*, with their Persons qualified
 For *Knights* and *Burgesses*, proportioning
 As near as may be, to an equalling
 The *number* of the whole, so, or so many
 Unto each Month, without omitting any.
 Ascertain then, the Month and Day, wherein
 Each *twelfth part* an Election shall begin;
 (The middle of the Week, appearing best,
 As being furthest from the day of Rest.)
 On each first *Wednesday*, of each Month, let those
 By whom our *Deputies* are to be chose,
 Respectively convene in ev'ry *Shire*,
 Upon that Month, and *Wednesday* ev'ry year,
 Which is to them assign'd; and having chosen,
 (At Months end) let each twelfth part, of the dozen,
 Send up their *Chosen men*, to represent
 Their *Shires* and *Boroughs* in the Parliament;
 And on that very Day, in which they come,
 Let all their Predecessors give them Room.

Thus one *Month* some, and *Month* by *Month* for ever
 Let each twelfth part, still orderly persever
 To take a turn, till ev'ry *Shire* hath had
 A *Month* in ev'ry year; and having made
 Their choice, let them still enter and withdraw
 Successively by a *perpetual Law*,
 No man a *place of Trust*, supplying there,
 At one *Election*, longer than one year.

The Book Intituled, The Perpetual Parliament, is designed to be Reprinted, and presented to all the Members.

F I N I S.